

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 197-201 and 203-219 are pending in the application, of which claims 209-219 have previously been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 202 has previously been cancelled.

Claims 197-201 and 203-208 have been rejected.

Claim 197 has been amended. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment to claim 197 adds no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 197-201 and 203-204 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Jang et al. US (hereinafter "Jang") (US 6,165,406).

Applicants respectfully assert that Jang does not teach all the features of amended independent claim 197 and therefore cannot anticipate the claim and the claims dependent thereon.

Amended claim 197 includes, *inter alia*, "controlling the temperature of more than one upper layer of said object being printed so as to maintain the temperature of two or more upper layers above the glass transition temperature of said material such that said upper layers remain in a flowable state".

Applicants submit that support for the amendment to claim 197 can be found at least in paragraph [100].

Jang discloses a three-dimensional printing process where "the portion of the previous layer facing the nozzle must have solidified before the new material is brought in contact with this portion of the previous layer" (Jang, column 15, lines 50-53).

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Accordingly, Jang does not teach, at least, "controlling the temperature of more than one upper layer of said object being printed so as to maintain the temperature of two or more upper layers above the glass transition temperature of said material such that said upper layers remain in a flowable state", as claimed by amended claim 197.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claim 197 is allowable over Jang. Claims 198-201 and 203-204 depend from, directly or indirectly, claim 197, and therefore include all the limitations of this claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 198-201 and 203-204 are likewise allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claims 198-201 and 203-204 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 205-206 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Jang as applied to claim 204 above and further in view of Leyden et al. (US 6,193,923).

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 207-208 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Jang as applied to claim 197 above and further in view of Leyden et al. (US 6,193,923).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 205-208 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in view of the remarks that follow.

Each of dependent claims 205-208 depends, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 197. As discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, amended independent claim 197 is patentable over Jang.

Leyden et al. cannot cure the deficiencies of Jang as it does not teach or suggest, at least, "controlling the temperature of more than one upper layer of said object being printed so as to maintain the temperature of two or more upper layers above the glass transition temperature of said material such that said upper layers remain in a flowable state", as claimed by amended claim 197. Accordingly, claim 197 is patentable over the combination of Jang and Leyden et al.

Each of dependent claims 205-208 include all the features of claim 197 as well as additional distinguishing features, and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of dependent claims 205-208 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the pending claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

The fees for the RCE are being paid separately. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if any such fees are due, please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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